With regard to the Provident Fund, it is working in some recognised English schools. But it has not been sufficiently availed of by the teachers of private schools even though we have granted more liberal concessions here than those prevailing in British India. Here, if the teachers pay one anna in the rupee, the Government also contribute one anna, though in the Madras Presidency the Government pay only half an anna. Even with this concession, the fund is not popular here. However, your remarks are noted.

Your observations regarding the creation of a Philosophy Chair in His Highness the Maha Raja's College, and the admisson of all Travancore students into that college are noted.

As regards the University, the University Committee is drafting its report. Until the report reaches the Government, no opinion can be expressed. Your remarks will be borne in mind when the recommendations of the committee are considered by the Government.

Your suggestions for travelling libraries and the delivery of public lectures on hygiene in rural areas are noted.

Your request that the rule in regard to fee concessions should be made clear so as to make it applicable to Paravas who are really Tandans will receive the attention of Government.

123. Some Educational reforms.

Mr. N. Narayana Panikkar (Member, Tiruvalla taluk) represented that primary education should be made compulsory. He briefly summarised the circumstances under which compulsion was brought about in western countries and gave certain facts and figures to show that the progress achieved in the matter of primary education in Travancore was not proportionate to the amount of money and labour spent upon it. If compulsion could not be introduced into the whole State, the experiment might be tried in any one taluk and primary education made compulsory in that taluk.

The next point dealt with by the Member was the need for increasing the pay of teachers in vernacular schools. Though the pay of the teachers of primary schools was revised twice recently, the prospects of those teachers were still far from adequate, and the Member suggested that they might be started on a pay of Rs. 20 with a scale up to Rs. 30 and with an increment of Rs. 2 once in every four years. The Member also said that there was some difference in the pay of the teachers employed in the Districts forming the old northern and southern ranges. It was also iniquitous that persons with equal qualifications should draw a lower pay when they entered the vernacular branch of the department. In regard to primary education the number of subjects should be reduced as also the hours of study. Four hours—2 in the morning from 8 to 10 and 2 from 3 to 5—ought to be sufficient for all practical purposes. Such of the final examinations as were under the control of the Travancore Government should be held in the cool month of Vrischikam. The examination papers should not be tough. As recommended by the Sadler Commission in regard to the Calcutta University, the medium of instruction in all classes up to Form VI should be the vernacular except in the case of the English language. Though there was a G. O. insisting on the use of the vernacular as the medium of instruction in all English schools up to Form III, that order was not being adhered to at present. The Inspector of English Schools, however, recently found that out and issued a circular giving effect to the G. O. What the Member requested was that the scheme should be extended to English High Schools, and brought into force up to Form VI, excepting, of course, the English language. The Member also prayed that Sanskrit Munshies be appointed in all Vernacular Middle and High Schools and English schools. The teaching of Sanskrit should be made compulsory in all classes above class IV. Permission should be accorded to students failing once in the English School Leaving Certificate Examination to appear as private candidates.

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The Member also suggested that—

(1) promotion be given to all students in the Junior Intermediate and the Junior B. A. classes ;

(2) the Philosophy Chair be re-established, and the Honors course in Mathematics be started, in the College ;

(3) the admission list be published earlier so as to stop the migration of Travancoreans to places outside the State ;

(4) pupils be admitted into classes for which they were found fit and candidates be allowed to appear privately for all examinations.

(5) raw hands who had passed the Vernacular Higher or the Vernacular School Leaving examination be not appointed as teachers in primary schools ; but only trained teachers, and that training be introduced as an optional subject of study in Vernacular High Schools;

(6) all the untrained teachers be trained within a period of 5 years ;

(7) a Second Grade College be established in Chengannur, Central Travancore, since there were eleven English High Schools close by, which would serve as feeders to such a college ;

(8) all Government publications be issued in Malayalam also ;

(9) all correspondence in public offices and courts be in Malayalam, as also all court judgments;

(10) the Provident Fund Scheme for teachers in private schools be given full effect to ;

(11) the proposed University be an All-Kerala Institution and not be confined to Travancore alone ;

(12) the pay of those vernacular school teachers who had passed the Vernacular Higher examination be increased ;

(13) the teachers of vernacular schools be permitted to represent their grievances direct to the Inspector of Vernacular Schools when the matter was of an important and urgent nature;

(14) Malayalam short-hand be introduced into classes VIII and X of Vernacular High Schools and the inventor of the system be appointed as the instructor in that subject in the Commercial School at Alleppey ;

(15) patent be not given to a system of Malayalam typewriting invented by a European Mission ;

(16) no extension of service be granted to any one who had completed his fifty-fifth year of age ;

(17) people be allowed to open private schools without any kind of restriction being imposed upon in the matter ;

(18) all school buildings be thatched before the end of Minam ;

(19) the scheme of introducing spinning in schools passed by the Legislative Council be given effect to as early as possible ; and

(20) the teaching of *Visha Vaidya* and treatment of eye-diseases be introduced in the Ayurveda College, qualified teachers being appointed for the purpose.

President's reply.—I have already replied to the previous speaker regarding compulsory primary education and the increase of pay of vernacular school teachers. The question of the creation of a Philosophy Chair in the College can be considered only after the receipt of the report of the University Committee. Your remarks in that connection are noted.

You have urged that students should not be detained in the junior classes of His Highness the Maha Raja's College, but should, as a matter of course, be promoted to the senior classes. As a matter of fact, even now, all are promoted except those who are extremely backward. Your suggestion does not appear to be feasible.

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You said that candidates who had once failed in the English School Leaving Certificate Examination should be allowed to appear privately for that examination again. The Director of Public Instruction, Mr. Hodgson, is against that. He states that a second year's study in the school is necessary, in case a pupil fails to secure a satisfactory certificate at the end of the first year. Your suggestion cannot be given effect to without the present Acting Director being consulted. This will be done.

Your representation regarding the appointment of Sanskrit Munshies in Vernacular Middle Schools will be considered, as also the one for the compulsory teaching of Sanskrit in vernacular schools.

You have suggested that the students of primary classes should be taught in two batches—one in the morning and the other in the afternoon. It is a system worthy of consideration and the matter is now engaging the attention of the Government.

You want a Second Grade College at Chengannur. As the Government cannot finance it at present, the matter has to be dropped. It will, however, be considered when the report of the University Committee is received.

As regards the admission of students to any standard to which they are fit after private study, the Director's opinion will be called for.

Your suggestions regarding the proposed University and the encouragement to be afforded to Malayalam short-hand by its being made a subject of study in the Commercial School are noted. You said that there was some difference in the pay of the teachers employed in the Districts forming the old northern and southern ranges. The Inspector of Vernacular Schools tells me that this difference is now in process of rectification.

Regarding extension of service to subordinate officers a G. O. has been issued.

As regards the publication of all Government proceedings, etc., in Malayalam, the matter was referred to by Mr. Mammen Mappillai at the last session of the Assembly. Malayalam is the language in Magistrate's courts and other courts and public offices. All officers of Government are required by the Travancore Service Regulations to be conversant with the vernacular. The Legislative Council Proceedings are translated into Malayalam and every encouragement is afforded by the Government for the development of Malayalam.

124. Certain suggestions towards the evolution of a better educational policy for the State.

Mr. S. Nilakanta Aiyar (Member, Municipal Council, Attingal) referred to the working of the present system of education and said that a large number of young men were flocking to the Government for employment, since they had no equipment for a career in any other walk of life. Education for its own sake had become a creed ; but the present conditions of life required that there should be a utilitarian side to education. It was absolutely impossible for the Government to provide places for all in the public service and hence the question of unemployment would naturally loom large in the near future. The most promising youths of the country were discontented and in the unemployed list, which was not a desirable state of affairs from an economic point of view. The only remedy was the introduction of vocational education in vernacular schools such as spinning, weaving, agriculture, smithery, carpentry, etc. The impression that manual training would serve as an introduction to vocational training was a delusion, as, in the opinion of experts on manual training, it was the cultural value that counted and not the utilitarian aspect of it. The Member thought that it was essential that the system of education imparted in schools should be practical and enable its recipients to earn a living. If it was not feasible to introduce vocational training in vernacular schools, it was undesirable to have the present lengthy course of vernacular education extending over a period of nine years. It would be better to stop with the 4 years' instruction now imparted in primary schools. Next, taking up the English schools, the Member said that the education imparted was indisputably removed from life, and that it was unreal, mechanical and

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